



The city with a heart
April 10, 2001

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



538010

Ms. Lolita Hill, Remedial Project Manager - SR-6J
US EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

RE: North Main Street Wellfield

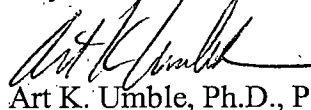
Dear Ms. Hill:

Thank you for your letter of 3-29-01. The project you reference is a proposal being put forth by the City's Department of Planning and Development. As you have correctly stated in your letter, the proposal is for installation of lighted walking paths throughout primarily the wooded area of the site for public access. This proposal does not in any way impact the existing air stripping activities being used for remedial action goals.

Enclosed please find a copy of the plan, and an accompanying narrative of the project as proposed by the Planning and Development department. As a representative of the utilities, I have personally been involved in the discussions around this planning effort to ensure no impacts to the remediation facilities occur. Though the proposed trails do not interact with the remediation project area, we are requiring the air stripping facility be completely enclosed with security fencing. This is noted on the plan. Access to the facility remains restricted, as it always has been, to the City of Elkhart Public Works and Utilities staff only.

The City Council has been conducting public meetings with neighborhood organizations and other interested stakeholders over these past several months, gathering input for plan refinement. If you have specific questions regarding the plan, please do not hesitate to call. If I am unable to answer, I will put you in touch with Mr. Craig Phillips, our Planning Department's project manager.

Sincerely yours,
City of Elkhart Public Works and Utilities


Art K. Umble, Ph.D., P.E.

Manager of Water and Wastewater Operations

cc: Craig Phillips, Planner

David L. Miller
Mayor

Public Works
& Utilities

Administration
1201 S. Nappanee Street

Elkhart, Indiana 46516

Phone: 219.293.2572

Fax: 219.293.7658

Customer Billing

921 N. Main Street

Elkhart, Indiana 46514

Phone: 219.264.4273

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Board Of Public Works

229 S. Second Street

Elkhart, Indiana 46516

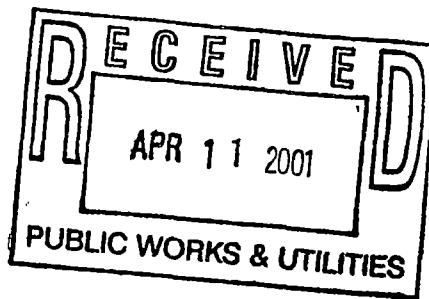
Phone: 219.294.5471

Fax: 219.293.7964





The city with a heart



NORTH MAIN STREET WELLFIELD TRAILS

1. Project Overview

The proposed North Main Street Wellfield Walking Trails is an effort to provide a low impact recreational opportunity for residents and visitors of Elkhart for walking, jogging, bicycle riding, and rollerblading and fishing. The project could be completed in two phases or entirely at one time. If approved, construction would begin in Spring 2001.

2. Planning Process

In response to comments received by local residents while on a neighborhood tour, plans for trail improvements in the North Main Street Wellfield were initiated. A committee of City officials from various departments was created and a series of meetings held to discuss the idea of a trail system in the wellfield. As a result of several discussions, site tours, and work with consultants, a conceptual plan for a wellfield trail network has been created.

The City has worked with two neighborhood associations, Christiana Creek and Pulaski Village to develop the project. In addition, property owners not represented by neighborhood associations surrounding the wellfield were notified regarding the proposed development. Comments received included mainly suggestions for pedestrian lighting and regular police (bike) patrols.

3. Site Description

The North Main Street Wellfield is an area of approximately 35 acres bounded by North Main Street on the east, the active railroad right of way to the south, Edwardsburg and properties on Willowdale Avenue to the west, and an abandoned railroad right-of way located just south of and parallel to Simonton Street on the north. The property is currently an active City wellfield, consisting of a system of groundwater wells and storage reservoirs. The land within the wellfield is primarily flat, and is bisected by Christiana Creek in a roughly northwest to southeast direction.

4. Project Description

The proposed trail system will include two paved loops. The Phase 1 pathway is approximately 3,200 feet in length; Phase 2 is roughly 2,300 feet in length. Each of the pathways is 10-12 feet in width. The conceptual plan indicates that each loop is to be located on opposite sides of Christiana Creek, connected by a bridge near the center of the property. Two access points including parking for approximately 10-20 cars each are suggested off of North Main Street and Edwardsburg Avenue. A 3-4 acre wildflower planting area will be located near the center of the phase one portion of the project. The committee also suggests the linkage of this facility with Willowdale Park to the north, as well as High Dive Park and ultimately the Riverwalk and Downtown to the south.

David L. Miller
Mayor

Planning & Development
Department

Municipal Building
229 S. Second Street
Elkhart, Indiana 46516

Phone: 219.294.5471
Fax: 219.295.7501

5. Environmental Considerations

The environmental impacts on the existing wellfield will be minimal due to specific site treatments that have been taken into consideration. All paved surfaces within the property are to be surfaced with concrete instead of asphalt in order to avoid potential contamination of the water supply by petroleum leachates and runoff.

The wildflower planting area will require careful site preparation, using a process involving plastic sheeting to eradicate weed overgrowth that is minimally invasive to the environmental quality of the wellfield. In addition to these practices, steps will be taken to ensure the prohibition of public vehicles. Certain City vehicles will be allowed access for maintenance and operations purposes. Public vehicles will be restricted to the parking areas, through the use of removable pathway barriers.

6. City Staff Involvement

Wherever possible, City staff and equipment will be used for the construction of the project in order to minimize costs. The Street Department will be constructing the pathways and parking areas. Wildflower site preparation and plantings ~~and~~ will be done by the Parks and Recreation Department staff and the Elkhart EnviroCorps.

The Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the trail areas, and the existing wellfield facilities will continue to be maintained by the Public Works and Utilities Department.

7. Project Costs

The total cost of both phases of the proposed Wellfield Trails improvements is approximately \$551,450.00. The costs for phase one are \$272,550.00. The total cost of phase two would be \$278,900.00.

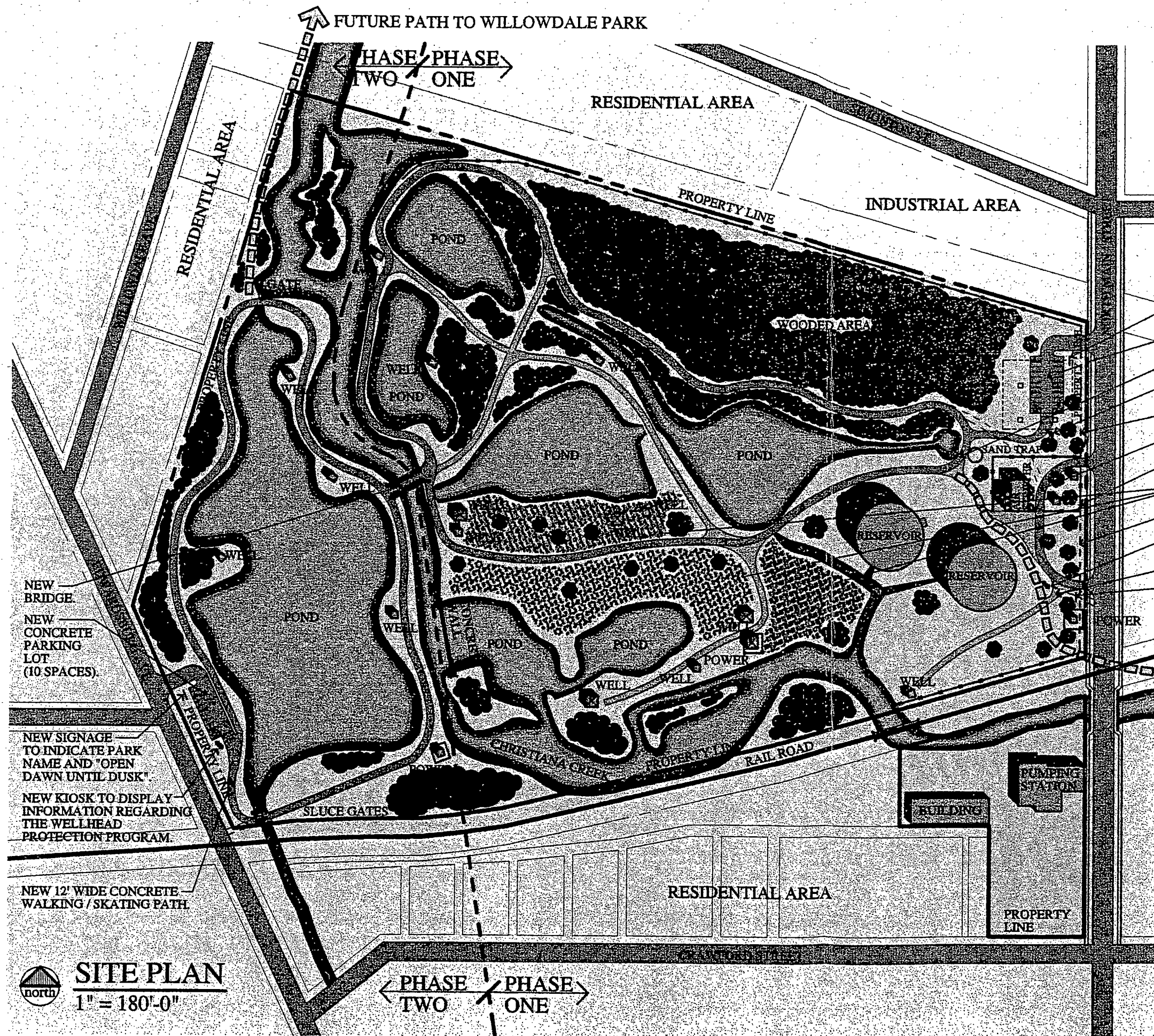
8. Project Funding

Funding for this project will most likely be in the form of an allocation of funds from Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) funds available for projects such as this. It is the intent of the City staff to research the possibility of acquiring grant money or matching funds from federal agencies to help with the costs of linkages to other parks.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR

WELLFIELD WALKING TRAILS

THE CITY OF ELKHART, INDIANA



- NEW SIGNAGE TO INDICATE PARK NAME AND "OPEN DAWN UNTIL DUSK".
- NEW CONCRETE PARKING LOT (20 SPACES).
- NEW 12' WIDE CONCRETE WALKING / SKATING PATH.
- NEW KIOSK TO DISPLAY INFORMATION REGARDING THE WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM.
- EXISTING FENCE TO BE REMOVED ALONG MAINSTREET.
- NEW CONCRETE DRIVE FOR WATER DEPT. USE.
- NEW FENCE & GATES TO PROVIDE PROTECTED AREA FOR AIR STRIPPER AND WATER DEPT. USE.
- WILD FLOWERS TO BE PLANTED THIS AREA (130,000 S.F. +/-).
- EXISTING FENCE TO BE REMOVED ALONG MAINSTREET
- NEW KIOSK TO DISPLAY INFORMATION REGARDING THE WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM.
- EXISTING GRAVEL TRAILS TO REMAIN.
- NEW SIGNAGE TO INDICATE PARK NAME AND "OPEN DAWN UNTIL DUSK".

- NEW BRIDGE
- NEW CONCRETE PARKING LOT (10 SPACES).
- NEW SIGNAGE TO INDICATE PARK NAME AND "OPEN DAWN UNTIL DUSK".
- NEW KIOSK TO DISPLAY INFORMATION REGARDING THE WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM.

NEW 12' WIDE CONCRETE WALKING / SKATING PATH

SITE PLAN
1" = 180'-0"

FUTURE PATH TO HIGH DIVE PARK

